

FluBytes (10.10.2008)

2008-2009 Influenza Season



“Each year, influenza kills more people in the U.S. than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined. With some vaccine supply already available and ample supply expected throughout the season, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) and leading public health organizations are urging the public and the health care community to follow the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations -- which call on some 261 million Americans to be vaccinated against influenza each year.” –NFID Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference 2008

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Key Points

Flu Partners' Update

Distribute Flu News Releases in Your Community!

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

The MDCH Division of Immunization writes flu press releases on a monthly and as needed basis throughout the flu season. Please disseminate these press releases to your immunization partners and local media contacts, in order to be sure that the general public receives an accurate, consistent message about seasonal flu vaccination. To access MDCH flu-related press releases, visit www.michigan.gov/flu → seasonal flu → additional resources → MDCH flu-related press releases. Last season's press releases are archived here as well.

The first seasonal flu press release of the 2008-09 flu season is available below.

Influenza Vaccination Season Begins (10/2/08)

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

MDCH is gearing up for the [2008-2009 influenza season](#) by making special efforts to reach out to high-risk patients as well as children in need of a second dose of influenza vaccine. Vaccine manufacturers expect shipments to be made on-time this year and MDCH is urging providers, local health departments, and community vaccinators to begin vaccinating patients. A record number of doses - 143 million - are expected to be available in the United States for the flu season. That is three million more doses available than last year.

"As flu season approaches, we encourage all Michigan residents to get vaccinated," said Greg Holzman, chief medical executive for MDCH. "The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated. If you are a new parent, a health care professional, or have contact with people age 65 and older, protect those high-risk individuals by getting vaccinated."

Volunteers Needed NOW for Influenza Surveillance

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

The Michigan component of the CDC U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network is a group of practices that volunteer to report their weekly rate of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) and collect clinical specimens from a subset of these patients for virus isolation at the MDCH laboratory. These data and isolates are used to monitor influenza activity and the influenza viruses that circulate in the outpatient community.

At the end of each flu season, however, practices leave the program and new ones are needed to replace them. Currently, 86 practices are enrolled and we need your help to recruit more! Whenever you and your staff visit provider offices, please mention the Sentinel Surveillance program. Participation takes less than 30 minutes per week and the benefits are many. The [attached flyer](#) can be used to assist your recruitment efforts.

To become a flu sentinel, contact Rachel Potter at (517) 335-9710 or PotterR1@michigan.gov.

Seasonal Influenza Update

Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness among Children 6 to 59 Months of Age During 2 Influenza Seasons: A Case-Cohort Study (October 2008)

Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, 2008, Vol. 162, No. 10

[Talking points](#) are now available from a recent study found in the [Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine](#). This study, conducted by Peter Szilagyi et al. (2008) and funded by CDC, examined the ability of the influenza vaccine to prevent hospitalizations and reduce physician visits for flu in children during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 flu seasons, when there was a sub-optimal match between the flu vaccine and predominant circulating strains in the United States.

This study involved 414 children aged younger than 5 years who lived in 3 counties and developed influenza during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. Of these children, 245 were seen in hospitals or emergency departments and 169 were seen in outpatient practices. Their vaccination status was compared with that of more than 5,000 children from the same three counties who did not have flu during those seasons.

Results did not demonstrate significant flu vaccine effectiveness in children for either of the seasons after adjusting for county, sex, insurance, chronic conditions recommended for influenza vaccination, and timing of influenza vaccination. Vaccine effectiveness estimates ranged from 7-52% across settings and seasons for fully vaccinated 6- to 59-months-old children. Although the effectiveness estimates suggested a benefit, the estimates were not statistically significant.

Researchers concluded that the sub-optimal match between the flu vaccine and circulating strains during the seasons studied may have contributed to lower vaccine effectiveness. No benefit was found for partial vaccination.

Pregnant Women Are Focus of National Flu Education Program This Season (10/6/08)

National Women's Health Resource Center (NWHRC), Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)



On October 6, 2008 NWHRC and AWHONN [launched](#) a brand new program entitled, “[Flu-Free and A Mom-to-Be: Protect Yourself, Protect Your Baby, Get a Flu Shot!](#)” The campaign is being supported by an educational grant from CSL Biotherapies and is designed to educate women who are pregnant, women who are planning to conceive, or new moms about the importance of receiving a flu shot. A recent national survey conducted by NWHRC and AWHONN point to the acute need for this type of education.

“The lack of awareness and mistaken beliefs about the importance of flu vaccination during pregnancy and the risks of influenza to both mother and baby are major concerns,” said Elizabeth Battaglini Cahill, RN, executive director of the National Women’s Health Resource Center. “We are launching the ‘Flu-Free and A Mom-to-Be’ campaign to heighten awareness of the expert medical guidelines recommending flu vaccination for pregnant women and to encourage all moms-to-be and mothers who are nursing to get a flu shot.” For more information, visit www.healthywomen.org.

Now Available: NIVS Newsletter #6 of the 2008-09 Flu Season (10/6/08)

National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS)

The [October 6, 2008 issue](#) of the NIVS newsletter is now available. Portions of the newsletter are reprinted below. To read learn more about the summit, visit www.preventinfluenza.org

The latest issue of Pediatrics has an [article on influenza infection and co-infection](#) with MRSA in children. The CDC expects to have talking points available soon.

The October 6 issue of American Medical News, which is distributed to more than 350,000 physicians, will have a 4-color feature on the production and distribution of influenza vaccine. This article will help educate physicians on the complex nature of vaccine production and distribution, in [text](#) and with a [timeline](#). Unfortunately, these links from the AMNews website do not do justice to the actual [hard-copy article](#).

On the October 1 Summit conference call, Dr. Jeanne Santoli provided an update on influenza vaccine supply. As of September 26, 66 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed in the United States. With respect to federally-purchased vaccine, which includes VFC vaccine, vaccine purchased via the Section 317 program, and vaccine purchased through states. Purchasing programs, 2/3 of all contracted doses are at McKesson for distribution. The remaining 1/3 of doses will be delivered by the fourth week of October. Grantees will be given another opportunity to purchase additional vaccine.

Pursuant to the discussion on the [NEJM paper](#) on maternal influenza immunization, CDC has developed the following talking points for the Summit's use:

- Pregnant women are at high risk of influenza-related complications, including complications that may require hospitalization.
- The current recommendation to administer influenza vaccine to women who are pregnant during influenza season is made in order to prevent influenza in this high risk group (to protect the women themselves).
- [The study](#) "Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants" published in the NEJM found greater clinical protection from influenza not only to the vaccinated mothers but also in the infants born to influenza-vaccinated mothers compared to infants born to unvaccinated mothers.
- This study was conducted during 2004-05 in Bangladesh and followed infants and their mothers to 24 weeks after delivery.
- Additional studies on the potential benefits to infants of vaccinating mothers against influenza are needed to draw definitive conclusions on this issue.
- Currently, infants younger than 6 months of age are not approved to receive influenza vaccination, but are the pediatric age group at greatest risk of serious complications, including hospitalization.
- CDC and the ACIP recommend that all caregivers and close contacts of children younger than 6 months get an annual influenza vaccination in order to protect these high-risk infants.
- This study provides additional scientific support for the recommendation to vaccinate pregnant women for their own protection and new data on the benefits of vaccination to their infants.

- More information on how caregivers of children younger than 6 months can protect against the flu is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/infantcare.htm>

Updated CDC Flu Web Pages (10/6/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC recently updated its flu web page with the following resources: [Questions & Answers about the 2008-2009 Flu Season](#) and [Seasonal Flu and Staph Infections](#). To access a broad range of continually updated information on seasonal influenza, avian influenza, pandemic influenza, swine influenza, and canine influenza, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

FDA Approves 2008-09 Flu Vaccines (10/8/08)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Below are [flu vaccine lots](#) that have been released by FDA (as of October 8, 2008) which are available for distribution by the manufacturers. For information on flu vaccine distribution schedules, please contact the manufacturers directly.

Manufacturer	Trade Name	Total Number of Lots Released by FDA
CSL Limited	Afluria	29
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals	Fluarix	28
ID Biomedical Corporation of Quebec (Distributor of GSK)	Flulaval	38
MedImmune	FluMist	34
Novartis Vaccine	Fluvirin	45
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone	84

Avian Influenza Update

For the most up-to-date avian influenza surveillance activity, see the [MI Flu Focus Report](#) or the [MI Avian Flu Website](#)

Pandemic Influenza Update

CDC Awards \$16.9 Million Contract to Improve Capabilities to Combat Pandemic, Seasonal Influenza (10/8/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC has [awarded a \\$16.9 million contract](#) to [American Type Culture Collection \(ATCC\)](#) of Manassas, Va. to implement the CDC Influenza Reagent Resource (CDC-IRR), a secure, Web-based system that will improve access to influenza viruses, test kits and other reagents for approved laboratories.

“This new resource will be a significant improvement for accessing the CDC library of influenza viruses,” said Dr. Nancy Cox, Director of the Influenza Division at CDC. “We expect that the CDC-IRR will speed the development of better diagnostic tests, antiviral drugs and vaccines.” The system will allow researchers, developers and public health officials improved access to a repository of influenza viruses, including influenza viruses that could pose a pandemic risk, as well as kits and reagents (certain substances used in the testing process) through a secure internet web portal for approved users.

Flu Newswire

Flu Shots Plentiful, Doctors Urged to Get as well as Give (10/13/08)

AM News, American Medical Association

The good news is this year's vaccine is in ample supply. But with it, comes a challenge. Physicians should not only seek to immunize as many patients as possible, but also their staff members -- and themselves.

Randomized controlled trials have shown that unvaccinated health professionals can spread the disease in long-term-care settings and nursing homes, with a 44% drop in death rates when all workers are immunized. CDC data also show a correlation between hospital staff immunization rates and hospital outbreaks. About a quarter of health care workers contract influenza each year and nearly half of them are asymptomatic.

"It is both an [ethical and professional responsibility](#) for every health care worker to be vaccinated against influenza every year," said William Schaffner, MD, a consultant to Joint Commission Resources' flu vaccination challenge and chair of the Dept. of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn. He also is NFID president-elect.

Canberra Scientist Graeme Laver Died at 79 (10/6/08)

ABC News

Well-known Canberra scientist [Graeme Laver has died](#) in London at the age of 79. Dr Laver researched the influenza virus for more than 30 years and helped develop the anti-flu drug Relenza. In 1996, Dr Laver was awarded the Australia Prize for excellence in the field of pharmaceutical design. [In addition to being awarded the Australia Prize, he was a member of the Royal Society of London]. Professor Adrian Gibbs worked with Dr Laver at the John Curtin School of Medical Research. "With the 2 vital discoveries that Graeme made, he really worked out the major foundation of influenza biology in that period of 20 years and how to control it," he said.

Flu Deaths Up Among Children for 2006-07 Season (10/6/08)

CNN News

More children have [died from flu](#) because they also had staph infections, according to a new government report that urges parents to have their kids get the flu shot. Parents shouldn't panic, "but it's an important message to say even healthy children develop complications and die almost before anything much can be done for them," said Dr. Gregory Poland, a Mayo Clinic infectious disease specialist.

Flu Surveillance Update

Michigan Surveillance

The MI Flu Focus is archived on www.michigan.gov/flu. The most current edition **is attached**. To find out about influenza activity in the U.S., visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO (9/10/08)

World Health Organization (WHO)

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_09_10/en/index.html

General Immunization Update

Upcoming Events

Special Edition: PlanFirst Webcast on Pandemic Flu

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Date and Time: October 29, 2008, at 1:00 pm ET

A special edition of [PlanFirst](#) is scheduled for October 29, featuring HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt and special guests Dr. Bill Raub, Science Advisor to Secretary Leavitt; Dr. Mike Osterholm, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota; and Maggie Fox of Reuters. Secretary Leavitt will provide formal remarks regarding the Nation's pandemic planning effort. He will then join a roundtable discussion with our special guests to discuss the Nation's level of pandemic preparedness and related issues.

Flu Resources

New! MCIR Flu Assessment is Now Available

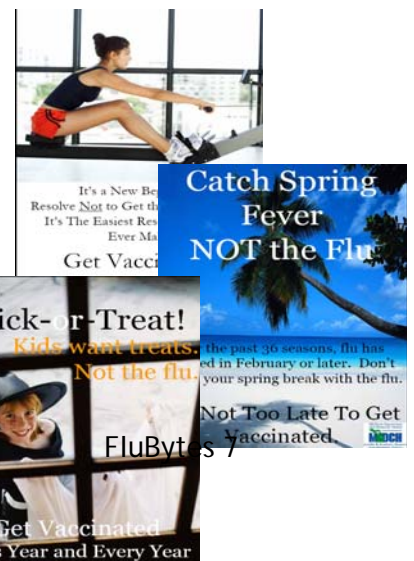
Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)

The new influenza assessment is now available in MCIR. Any patients who have had flu reported in MCIR since September 1, 2008 will be re-assessed using this fall's influenza rules. For questions related to flu assessment, call the MCIR Helpdesk toll-free at 888-243-6652 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.MCIR.org.

New! Monthly Flu Posters are Now Available

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

To assist in your efforts to vaccinate 84% of the U.S. population against influenza, MDCH has created monthly posters targeted towards individuals and families. The posters are simple and straight to the point: get your flu vaccination this year and every year. Further, these posters should be utilized to foster efforts towards [extending the flu vaccination season](#) throughout the winter months and even into February and March. Use these posters in your clinics and community outreach efforts today!



10/9/2008

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- [September](#)
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- [December](#)
- [January](#)
- [February](#)
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- [April](#)

New! MDCH Website for Businesses & the Workplace

*Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH),
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)*

According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), workplaces are suffering from 'presenteeism,' rather than absenteeism. Survey respondents cited a number of economically-driven reasons for why they feel pressured to go to work despite being sick with the flu, such as being concerned about work not getting done in their absence (60%), feeling guilty for missing work (48%), and getting minimal or no sick pay (24%). To address this issue, visit the [new MDCH website](#) for helpful tools and resources.



New! Fifth Guy Campaign Available on Infection Control

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Florida Department of Health (DOH)



We all know a Fifth Person - the guy who doesn't wash his hands, the gal who shows up at work sick, the dude who sprays us with spittle. View the PSAs below for tips on how to drop just the right hint - how to say, "Hey, stop getting us all sick!"

[These materials](#) (scroll down to the bottom of this link), adapted from the Florida Department of Health, will be broadcast by the Michigan Department of Community Health during this upcoming flu season. Keep your eyes and ears open from November to January time frame,

when these PSAs will run statewide. Feel free to use these materials in any way you see fit - organizational newsletters, company-wide e-mails reminding employees to practice good infection control/hand hygiene during the flu season, and so on.

Remember: The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year.

Influenza-Filled MMWR Now Available (9/26/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Vol. 57, No. 38

[The September 26, 2008 MMWR](#) is filled with influenza BRFSS, NIS, and sentinel surveillance data. Be sure to read the newly published influenza vaccination rates below.

Families Fighting Flu Video on YouTube (9/24/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Families Fighting Flu (FFF)

A video vignette entitled [Why Flu Vaccination Matters](#) is available on You Tube. This powerful six and half-minute video, created by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) in collaboration with Families Fighting Flu (FFF), features the personal stories of parents who have tragically lost or nearly lost a child to the flu.

NFID Annual Influenza/Pneumococcal News Conference (9/24/08)

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) in collaboration with the National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), and AARP held a [press conference](#) to urge annual flu vaccination for nearly 85 percent of Americans.

A [press release](#), [agenda](#), [map of nationwide coverage rates](#), as well as a wealth of resources are available at the NFID [press conference](#) website. Be sure to register and view these resources today.

Current Issues in Immunization Net Conference on Influenza (9/18/08)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Power Point presentations are now available from the [Current Issues in Immunization Net Conference on Influenza](#). Originally aired on September 18, 2008, this net conference focused on seasonal influenza recommendations and communication campaigns for 2008-09. Be sure to view the presentations below today.

- [Vaccine Supply](#) - Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH
- [Communication Campaign](#) - Alan Janssen, MSPH

3rd Annual National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Date: December 8-14, 2008

Purpose: This [event](#) is designed to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. NIVW is about immunizing more vulnerable people - not about having more time to immunize the same patient base. Special activities should be focused on children, seniors, and health care workers.

ALA Flu Clinic Locator Is Now Live (9/16/08)

American Lung Association (ALA)

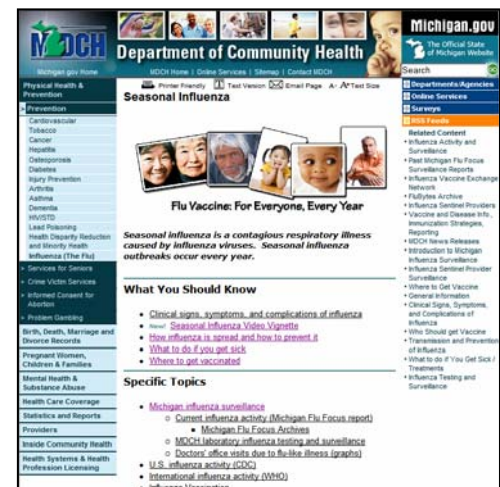
The ALA Flu Clinic Locator went live on September 16, 2008. In order to facilitate collaboration among all flu vaccinators within your community, please be sure to enter your flu clinics in the ALA Flu Clinic Locator at www.flucliniclocator.org. If you are a professional looking to [have your clinics listed on the Flu Clinic Locator](#), learn more by clicking "All About The Flu Clinic Locator" from the bar on the left. As part of being on the locator, those offering clinics will need to undergo a brief 10-minute training so that they can update the information pertaining to their clinics regularly. The ALA locator also provides a link to clinics that are being offered by public health departments and facilities.

MDCH Flu Website Updates for the 2008-09 Season

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

To navigate your way to the 2008-09 flu materials, visit www.michigan.gov/flu and click on seasonal flu → information for specific groups (health professionals) → [newly updated materials and messages for the 2008-2009 influenza season](#).

This year's theme, "Flu Vaccine: For Every One, Every Year" focuses on the importance of vaccinating the entire community against influenza, in order to protect those that are most vulnerable, with special efforts made this year to vaccinate school-aged children 6 months through 18 years of age.



For up-to-the minute, Michigan-specific flu information and resources, check out the flu website today. A wealth of information is available on where to get vaccinated, what to do if you get sick, where to find clinical laboratory and reporting information, as well as flu information for [community vaccinators](#), [school and child care settings](#), [individuals and families](#), and [businesses and the workplace](#).

Flu Advisory Board (FAB)

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

MDCH would like to extend an invite for any interested health care professional to become involved in the [Flu Advisory Board \(FAB\)](#). To join FAB, contact Courtney McFeters, Influenza Health Education Coordinator at McFetersC@michigan.gov.

Take the Flu Vaccination Challenge

Joint Commission Resources (JCR)

The *Flu Vaccination Challenge* begins September 1, 2008 and continues through the flu season to May 2009. Take a few minutes to register your hospital today by visiting www.FluVaccinationChallenge.com. Use the [Flu Fighter Action Kit](#) to assist in your planning efforts.

Start Planning Now: Utilize the Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Available online, the kit offers a step-by-step approach, including ready-to-use materials such as planning templates, a campaign calendar and timeline, and flu educational resources to help you reach everyone in your health care organization. Remember, anyone who shares air with patients should be vaccinated against influenza.

Become a Flu Fighter. Visit: www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit



A Note About FluBytes:

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. An archived list of past FluBytes issues can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779-125027--,00.html

This newsletter is distributed to local health departments, Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Coordinators, members of the Michigan Advisory Committee on Immunizations (MACI), Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM), and representatives of the Flu Advisory Board (FAB).
